

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS: SENATE RESOLUTION 163 —COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Mr. HARKIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 163

Whereas since 1836, the National Library of Medicine has played a crucial role in information innovation, revolutionizing the way scientific and medical information is organized, stored, accessed, and disseminated;

Whereas the National Library of Medicine houses the largest and most distinguished collection of health science and medical research literature in the world and serves as a vital resource to researchers, health professionals, and health care consumers;

Whereas the National Library of Medicine produces and provides free public access to comprehensive online databases of biological, genomic, and clinical research data that are a lynchpin to cutting edge biomedical research and are searched more than 2,000,000,000 times each year;

Whereas the National Library of Medicine plays a central role in developing health data standards to enable efficient use and exchange of health information in electronic health records;

Whereas the National Library of Medicine has conducted and supported training programs for groundbreaking informatics research and development for more than 40 years;

Whereas the National Library of Medicine is a leading source of toxicology, environmental health, and disaster preparedness and response information, including innovative use of information technology and mobile devices for first responders;

Whereas the National Library of Medicine has developed a wide range of consumer health information resources, which have improved the health of citizens of the United States and persons around the globe; and

Whereas the long and distinguished history of the National Library of Medicine is worthy of special commemoration by the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) commemorates the 175th anniversary of the United States National Library of Medicine;
- (2) salutes the National Library of Medicine for a long and distinguished record of service to citizens of the United States and people around the globe, and for the many contributions of the National Library of Medicine in the area of information innovation; and
- (3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the 175th anniversary of the United States National Library of Medicine with appropriate recognition and activities.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, as a member of the Senate who has been very interested in and involved with the areas of biomedical research, health care and the improvement of the public health, I want to draw the attention of the Congress and the Nation to the 175th anniversary of the National Library of Medicine, NLM, located at the National Institutes of Health, NIH.

NLM has changed the way scientific and medical information is organized, stored, accessed and disseminated. Throughout its distinguished history, the Library's hallmark has been information innovation, leading to exciting scientific discoveries that ultimately improve the public health.

From its modest beginnings as the Library of the U.S. Army Surgeon General in 1836, the National Library of Medicine has grown to become the world's largest medical library and the producer of electronic information resources used by millions of people around the globe every day.

The NLM has been fortunate to be led by Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D. since 1984. Under Dr. Lindberg's leadership, the Library has dramatically advanced toward its goal of providing access to biomedical information—anytime, anywhere—for scientists, health professionals, and the public. During Dr. Lindberg's tenure, NLM has embraced the Internet as the primary mode of delivering its services and expanded its portfolio to include genetic sequence data, high-resolution anatomical images, clinical trials information, and a wide array of high-quality information for consumers. One wonders what astonishing developments the next 175 years might bring.

Throughout its 175 years, NLM's work has been vital to facilitating and improving the effectiveness of biomedical research, getting important health information out to health professionals and consumers and conducting groundbreaking informatics research.

Index Medicus, a groundbreaking index of medical journal articles first published in 1879, evolved into MEDLINE, the first marriage of online search technology and nationwide telecommunications, in 1971. Available free of charge since 1997 via the Internet, PubMed/MEDLINE is today the most frequently consulted medical database in the world.

NLM began providing toxicology and environmental health data for use in emergency response and disaster management in the mid-1960s. Today, it produces information services to help health professionals, disaster information specialists, and the general public cope with emergencies and disasters ranging from children swallowing household cleaners to overturned trucks carrying hazardous materials to the widespread effects of hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, and oil spills.

NLM established librarian training programs and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine in the late 1960s, to provide equal access to the biomedical literature to persons across the country. Now with nearly 6,000 members, NLM and this network of academic, hospital, and public libraries partner with community-based organizations to bring high-quality information services to health professionals and the public—regardless of geographic location, socioeconomic status or level of access to computers and telecommunications.

NLM has conducted and supported training programs and groundbreaking informatics research and development for more than 40 years. The Library, its grantees, and its former trainees continue to play essential roles in the development of electronic health records, health data standards, and the exchange of health information.

NLM is home to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, NCBI, established in 1988 as a national resource for molecular biology information. Its work was essential to the mapping of the human genome. Today, NCBI is an indispensable international repository and software tool developer for genetic sequences and other scientific data, and a pioneer and leader in linking data and published research results to promote new scientific discoveries.

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NLM began intensive development of Web health information services for the general public in 1998 with the release of MedlinePlus.gov. Now available in English and Spanish, MedlinePlus is just one of many NLM consumer health information products also available on mobile devices. An award-winning free magazine, NIH MedlinePlus, is edited by NLM staff and is an important vehicle for sharing information from all of the NIH Institutes and Centers, in language that consumers can easily understand. Copies of the magazine, both an English and Spanish-language version, are distributed to doctors' offices, clinics, community health centers and other sites around the Nation.

NLM released ClinicalTrials.gov in 2000. It is now the world's largest source of information about clinical trials recruiting for patients and healthy volunteers, and also provides summary results of some trials long before they appear in the published literature.

In 2003, the Library teamed with the National Institute on Aging to launch NIHSeniorHealth. The site features authoritative, up-to-date information from the NIH Institutes and Centers, in a format that addresses the cognitive changes that come with older adulthood and allows easy use.

Also in 2003, NLM began a program called the Information Rx. Partnering with a variety of respected national physician groups and other organizations, NLM has supplied prescription pads to health providers, so that they can point their patients to the first-rate health information on the MedlinePlus site.

In recognition of its many achievements, today I am introducing the following Senate Resolution to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of the National Library of Medicine. I offer my congratulations to NLM and to its current and past leadership and staff and thank them for their important public service.

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